

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application.

The support for the amendment to claim 1 is on p.16, lines 16-18.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by **Wakizaka '900**.

Claim 1 has been amended to claim a laminate with at least 3 chemically different layers because thermoplastic resin layer (B) comprises thermoplastic resins other than those used in the polymer layer (A).

In contrast, **Wakizaka '900** discloses a film of (A) a ring structure-containing polymer such as a thermoplastic norbornene resin and a film (B) formed from a polycondensation polymer such as polyimide (col. 2, lines 37-41). Film (B) is disclosed in col. 20, lines 46-47 as possibly being formed from a resin composition. The layer structure of the laminate of **Wakizaka '900** is disclosed in col. 21, lines 46-55:

No particular limitation is imposed on the layer structure of the composite film according to the present invention, and examples thereof include (A)/(B), (A)/(B)/(A), (B)/(A)/(B), (A)/(B)/(A)/(B), (A)/(B)/(A)/(B)/(A) and (B)/(A)/(B)/(A)/(B). The number of layers may be increased more than this as needed. However, the number of layers is generally at most 10 layers, preferably at most 7 layers, more preferably at most 5 layers in total from the viewpoints of flexibility and profitability. In many cases, good results can be achieved by 2 or 3 layers.

It is clear from the description, examples and claims that **Wakizaka '900** discloses a laminate of

only 2 chemically different layers (A) and (B). Example 1 (col. 26) discloses the combination of maleic anhydride-modified polymer (a1) and a conventional polyimide film; example 2 (col. 26) discloses the combination of epoxy modified polymer (a2) and a conventional polyimide film; example 3 (col. 26) discloses the combination of epoxy-modified polymer (a3) and a conventional polyimide film; example 4 (col. 27) discloses maleic anhydride-modified polymer (a1) and a conventional polyimide film.

No matter how many ways the 2 disclosed layers of **Wakizaka '900** are combined (col. 21, lines 48-49), there will only be 2 chemically distinct layers in the laminate.

Because claim 1 recites 3 different chemically distinct layers: polymer (A), resin (B) different from (A) and polymer and resin combination (C), **Wakizaka '900** cannot possibly anticipate the invention as now claimed. No where in **Wakizaka '900** is there disclosed or suggested a laminate of 3 chemically distinct layers. The claimed invention is chemically different.

Claim 1 has been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the Applicants regard as their invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **December 19, 2002**.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-19, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/926,395

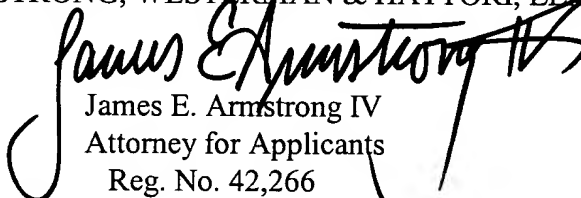
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP


James E. Armstrong IV
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 42,266

JAM/kas
Atty. Docket No. 011424
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Version with markings to show changes made

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A laminate of a multi-layer structure, comprising at least one alicyclic polymer layer (A), at least one thermoplastic resin layer (B) comprising thermoplastic resins other than those used in the polymer layer (A) and at least one layer (C) of a resin composition comprising an alicyclic polymer and a thermoplastic resin.